

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF FRED BITTERMAN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise at this time to recognize the remarkable life and significant achievements of a distinguished public servant and friend of mine, Captain Fred Bitterman. Tragically, Fred passed away Tuesday night in an accident at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Captain Bitterman, a dedicated law enforcement officer, father, grandfather and friend, will be deeply missed.

For over twenty five years Captain Bitterman served the people of the State of Colorado first as a State Patrolman, and later as a Troop Commander and Captain in the Colorado State Patrol. Captain Bitterman supervised a region that included the cities of Parachute, Vail, Eagle, New Castle, Carbondale, and of course our hometown of Glenwood Springs. As a law enforcement officer, his professionalism elevated him into a position of leadership. Captain Bitterman commanded a deep sense of admiration and respect from those officers who had the privilege of working alongside him, and also from those whom he worked so diligently to protect.

Captain Bitterman also put forth an immense effort to serving the public in his professional life. Captain Bitterman distinguished himself with his service to the Colorado State Patrol. Captain Bitterman enjoyed a well-deserved reputation of integrity not only within the ranks of the state patrol, but within the community as well.

Captain Bitterman was a strong family man, who took great pride in the family that he shared with his wife Cathy. In addition to Cathy, Captain Bitterman is survived by his six children, and many grandchildren. Captain Bitterman's passing is a severe loss not only to his family, but to our community as well.

Captain Bitterman was a very, very good man.

CONDEMNING 1994 ATTACK ON
AMIA JEWISH COMMUNITY CEN-
TER IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGEN-
TINA

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2000

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 531, condemning the 1994 attack of the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Six years have passed since this senseless, but very tragic act of violence.

The Jewish people of Argentina make up the largest Jewish community in Latin Amer-

ica. On July 18, 1994, the AMIA Jewish Community Center was bombed in Buenos Aires. As a result 86 people lost their lives and 300 were injured.

This resolution calls upon President Fernando de la Rúa to continue the investigation of the bombing, an investigation in which no person primarily responsible for this crime has been brought to justice. Argentine officials have acknowledged that this investigation was filled with negligence, and led to the arrest of just a few people tied to the incident, but who were only charged with providing a stolen vehicle used in the attack.

Investigators for the South American government have stated that the evidence indicates the bombing was carried out by the Iranian sponsored terrorist group Hezbollah. They have also found that the bombing could not have been carried out absent the assistance of local Argentine security forces, which have been reported to be compassionate to anti-Semitic rhetoric.

The democratic leaders of the Western Hemisphere have denounced terrorism in all its forms and have pledged to jointly combat terrorist acts anywhere in the Americas. The United States is not immune to acts of terrorism and this resolution serves to reiterate the long-standing policy of our country to stand firm against terrorist attacks wherever and whenever they occur and to work with its allies to ensure that justice is given to the victims and that the perpetrators of such violence are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

In order to fully live up to this policy we must lend our support to the government of Argentina. As I said previously, the evidence indicates that insiders played a major role in executing this violence. What security is available to the people of Argentina when the officers who pledged to uphold the law commit crimes against the people they are supposed to protect?

Terrorism effectively destroys the peaceful and civilized coexistence of all people. The United States cannot turn its back on such acts no matter where they take place. Failure to punish terrorists would be to reward them and to encourage the spread of violence in our homeland and abroad. This is not the impression the United States Government wants to give to the American people, nor to anyone around the world.

Terrorists ignore existing rules of law and endanger the stability of democratically elected constitutional governments. Terrorism is a serious form of organized and systematic violence, intended to generate chaos and fear among the people and results in death and destruction. Terrorist acts are acts of hate carried out on individuals because of the difference of their religion, the color of their skin or their political beliefs. When we ignore the acts of people that wreak havoc on others because of their differences, it is a negative reflection of the values of America as a whole. Terrorist acts are immoral and should never be condoned by the United States or any other government.

I urge my colleagues to take this opportunity to urge the Argentina government to fulfill its international obligations and its promise to the Argentine people by vigorously pursuing all persons involved in the bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Center.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on July 29, 2000, due to a scheduling conflict, I was unable to be present on the House floor during the vote on H.R. 4871 and its amendments. Had I been here I would have voted in the following manner:

"No" on rollcall 428; "aye" on rollcall 427; "no" on rollcall 426; "no" on rollcall 425; "no" on rollcall 424; "aye" on rollcall 423; "no" on rollcall 422; and "aye" on rollcall 421.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4810,
MARRIAGE TAX RELIEF REC-
ONCILIATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, as a father of young, working children, with working spouses, I am concerned that our tax system is penalizing them, and over 42,000 other working couples in my district, for making the sacrifices necessary to support their families.

Our tax system create penalties for being married in different ways. The tax laws do not allow married couples to earn twice as much taxable income as single taxpayers before higher tax rates take effect. The higher rates mean that spouses earn less after taxed than if they were single. The standard deduction for a single taxpayer is currently \$4,300. But for married couple the standard deduction is not doubled to \$8,600—it is only \$7,200. Millions of middle class working families who don't itemize deductions wind up paying a penalty because they are married.

Whatever form it takes, the "marriage penalty" is a tax bias against the working spouse with lower earnings. This means it is disproportionately a tax bias against working women taxpayers. Is this tax fairness? Married working women see a higher tax bite than their single counterparts because our tax laws fail to tax them on the same footing as single taxpayers. It's time to stop punishing working Americans. We encourage Americans to work, and we encourage single mothers and fathers to marry to benefit their children, and now we are fixing the tax system so that it makes marriage affordable. I urge you to pass this legislation.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, due to business in Colorado, I was unable to vote on the Hostettler amendment to H.R. 4871, making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001 (Roll No. 427). Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "yea."

INTERNET GAMBLING
PROHIBITION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on a topic that surrounds the dynamic questions raised by the extensive growth and reach of the internet. The information superhighway and the entire technological revolution have forced the Congress and industry officials to reexamine the regulation of internet gambling.

Under current federal law, it is unclear that using Internet to operate a gambling business is illegal. Gambling over the Internet only represents nefarious activity that we must only carefully examine, but such gambling also perpetuates the addictive nature of gambling.

It is well known that many gamblers are compulsive gamblers. In other words, they fell compelled to gamble, just as many smokers feel compelled to smoke cigarettes. Access fuels such additions, and by providing gambling sites over the Internet, illegal entities create access to anyone who owns a computer with a modem.

On-Line casino operators have created "virtual strip"—where gamblers who are tired of one casino can simply "walk" down the virtual Internet boardwalk into a different casino. Internet gambling sites offer everything from sports betting to blackjack. Many of these are operated from offshore locations. It is significant to note that H.R. 3125 would impose a mandate on Internet service providers by requiring them to offer their residential customers filtering software that would block access by children to gambling Internet sites. It is crucial that we protect our children from such activity.

Given the fact that the majority of our citizens have access to computers and the Internet, we must ensure that the Internet is used for the right reasons such as education and communication. We cannot forget that people utilize the Internet in a global marketplace of ideas.

This measure prohibits a person from knowingly using the Internet or any other interactive service to place, receive, or otherwise make a bet or wager with any other person. H.R. 3125, the Internet Gambling Prohibition Act of 2000, would prohibit persons engaged in a gambling business from using the Internet or any other interactive computer service place,

receive, or otherwise make a bet or wager, or send, receive, or invite information assisting in the placing of a bet or wager.

More importantly, the bill addresses not only individual gamblers, but also gambling businesses. For those gambling businesses that choose to participate in Internet gambling, they face fines up to \$20,000 or imprisonment (up to 4 years).

This bill would also require common carriers and Internet services to assist federal, state, and local enforcement agencies in shutting down illegal betting or wagering sites.

We must toe the line when we enforce this measure. We do not want to trample upon the privacy rights of individuals. However, as long as the enforcement of a "gambling business" defined the legislation is not expanded by law enforcement authorities, it will help protect many parties from destructive and illegal conduct.

We must adopt a model of enforcement that provides uniformity and specificity so that the Internet carriers and telephone companies can easily and efficiently remove gambling sites from the Internet. It is my expectation that this legislation, after reconciliation with S. 692, the Senate-version of this bill, will make a positive contribution to the regulation of gambling businesses.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE
EARLY ACCESS AND TAX CREDIT
ACT**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, more and more people in this country are losing access to health insurance. A new study by the Urban Institutes that the percentage of people under 65 without health insurance in 1998 grew to a stunning 18.4 percent. And, as the study's authors highlight, the strong national economy is masking what would otherwise be an even greater problem.

There are many approaches to solutions for decreasing the number of uninsured. As most of my colleagues are aware, I support the creation of a universal health care system in which each and every American would have health insurance coverage. That is the most fair, affordable, and sustainable solution to our national health care needs.

However, that won't be accomplished overnight. In the meantime, there are steps that Congress can and should be taking to develop immediate, if smaller, solutions to providing people affordable health insurance coverage options.

One such is to pass legislation that would provide certain groups of individuals the option of buying into Medicare. For two sessions of Congress, we have sponsored a bill endorsed by the President called the Medicare Early Access Act. The goal of this legislation is to expand access to Medicare's purchasing power to certain individuals below age 65.

The Medicare Early Access Act is self-financed, through enrollees' premiums; it is not a publicly financed program. It simply would enable eligible individuals to harness Medicare's clout in the marketplace to get much more affordable health coverage than they are

able to purchase in the private sector market that currently exists.

The bill would provide a very vulnerable population (age 55–64) with three new options to obtain health insurance:

Individuals 62–65 years old with no access to health insurance could buy into Medicare by paying a base premium (about \$326 a month) during those pre-Medicare eligibility years and a deferred premium during their post-65 Medicare enrollment (about \$4 per month in 2005 for an individual who participated in the full 3 years of the new program). The deferred premium is designed to reimburse Medicare for the extra costs due to the fact that sicker than average people are likely to enroll in the program. The deferred premium would be payable out of the enrollee's Social Security check between the ages of 65–85.

Individuals 55–62 years old who have been laid off and have no access to health insurance, as well as their spouse, could buy into Medicare by paying a monthly premium (about \$460 a month). There would be no deferred premium. Certain eligibility requirements would apply.

Retirees aged 55 or older whose employer-sponsored coverage is terminated could buy into their employee's health insurance for active workers at 125 percent of the group rate. This would be a COBRA expansion, with no relationship to Medicare.

Today, we are here to introduce a new, improved version of this legislation. As we are all aware, there are new projections of vast budget surpluses in our Nation's future. We want to take a small portion of those monies and finance a new component of the Medicare Early Access Act. Our new bill, the Medicare Early Access and Tax Credit Act of 2000 supplements our previous proposal by incorporating a new 25 percent tax credit that would be attached to each of the three programs. Thus, the actual cost to taxpayers would be 25 percent less than the cost under the proposals in the existing bill. I join today with more than 50 of my colleagues to reintroduce this new version of the legislation.

Affordability is a key component of expanding health insurance coverage. Adding a tax credit to the programs increases their affordability so that more people age 55 and older can take advantage of the program. The latest analysis from the Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation, indicate that more than 500,000 currently uninsured people would gain health insurance coverage by enactment of the Medicare Early Access and Tax Credit Act.

The Medicare Early Access and Tax Credit Act isn't the total solution for people age 55–64 who lack access to health insurance coverage. However, if passed, it would make available health insurance options for these individuals at much less than the cost of what is available today. This is a meaningful step forward in expanding health insurance coverage to a segment of our population that is quickly losing coverage in the private sector. The Medicare Early Access and Tax Credit Act is legislation that we should be able to agree upon and to enact so that people aged 55–64 have a new, viable option for health insurance coverage.

I submit a more detailed summary of the Medicare Early Access and Tax Credit Act as follows:

MEDICARE EARLY ACCESS AND TAX CREDIT ACT

Title I: Help For People Aged 62 to 65

62-65 YEAR OLDS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE MAY BUY INTO MEDICARE BY PAYING MONTHLY PREMIUMS AND REPAYING ANY EXTRA COSTS TO MEDICARE THROUGH DEFERRED PREMIUMS BETWEEN AGES 65 TO 85

Starting July, 2001, the full range of Medicare benefits (Part A & B and Medicare+Choice plans) may be bought by an individual between 62-65 who has earned enough quarters of coverage to be eligible for Medicare at age 65 and who has no health insurance under a public plan or a group plan. (The individual does not need to have exhausted any employer COBRA eligibility).

A person may continue to buy-into Medicare even if they subsequently become eligible for an employer group health plan or public plan. Individuals move into regular Medicare at age 65.

Financing: Enrollees must pay premiums. Premiums are divided into two parts:

(1) Base Premiums of about \$326 a month payable during months of enrollment between 62 to 65, which will be adjusted for inflation and will vary a little by differences in the cost of health care in various geographic regions, and

(2) Deferred Premiums which will be payable between age 65-85, and which are estimated to be about \$4 per month in 2005 for someone that participated for the full three years. The Deferred Premium will be paid like the current Part B premium, i.e., out of one's Social Security check.

Note, the Base Premium will be adjusted from year to year to reflect changing costs (and individuals will be told that number each year before they choose to enroll), but the 20 year Deferred Premium will not change from the dollar figure that the beneficiary is told when they first enroll between 62-65—they will be able to count on a specific dollar deferred payment figure.

The Base Premium equals the premium that would be necessary to cover all costs if all 62-65 year olds enrolled in the program. The Deferred Premium repays Medicare for the fact that not all will enroll, but that many sicker than average people are likely to voluntarily enroll. The Deferred Premiums ensure that the program is eventually fully financed over roughly 20 years. Savings from the anti-fraud proposals (introduced separately as HR 2229) finance the start-up of the program and protect the existing Medicare program against any loss (see Title IV).

Title II: Help For 55 to 62 Year Olds Who Lose Their Jobs

55-62 YEAR OLDS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (AND THEIR UNINSURED SPOUSES) MAY BUY INTO MEDICARE THROUGH A PREMIUM

The full range of Medicare benefits may be bought by an individual between 55-62 who:

(1) has earned enough quarters of coverage to be eligible for Medicare at age 65,

(2) is eligible for unemployment insurance, (3) before lay-off had a year-plus of employment-based health insurance, and

(4) because of the unemployment no longer has such coverage or eligibility for COBRA coverage.

A worker's spouse who meets the above conditions (except for UI eligibility) and is younger than 62 may also buy-in (even if younger than 55).

The worker and spouse must terminate buy-in if they become eligible for other types of insurance, but if the conditions listed above reoccur, they are eligible to buy-in again. At age 62 they must terminate and can convert to the Title I program. Non-pay-

ment of premiums is also cause for termination.

There is a single monthly premium roughly equal to \$460 that will be adjusted for inflation. It must be paid during the time of buy-in; there is no Deferred Premium. This premium is set to recover base costs plus some of the costs created by the likely enrollment of sicker than average people. The rest of the costs to Medicare are repaid by the anti-fraud provisions (see Title IV).

Title III: Help for Workers 55+ Whose Retiree Benefits are Terminated

WORKERS AGE 55+ WHOSE RETIREMENT HEALTH INSURANCE IS TERMINATED BY THEIR EMPLOYER MAY BUY INTO THEIR EMPLOYER'S HEALTH INSURANCE FOR ACTIVE WORKERS AT 125% OF THE GROUP RATE (THIS IS AN EXTENSION OF COBRA HEALTH CONTINUATION COVERAGE—NOT A MEDICARE PROGRAM)

This Title is an expansion of the COBRA health continuation benefits program. If a worker and dependents have relied on a company retiree health benefit plan, and that protection is terminated or substantially slashed during his or her retirement, but the company continues a health plan for its active workers, then the retiree may buy-into the company's group health plan at 125% of cost. They can remain in that plan, paying 125% of the premium, until they are eligible for Medicare at age 65.

Title IV: Financing

Titles I & II of the Early Access to Medicare Act are totally financed. Title III is not a Medicare or public program.

The existing Medicare program is protected by placing these programs in their own trust fund. The Medicare Trustees will monitor the program to ensure that it is self-financing and does not in any way burden the existing Medicare program.

Most of the cost is paid by the enrollees' premiums.

Payment of start up costs: While the Deferred Premiums are being collected and for any costs not covered by premiums, a package of Medicare anti-fraud, waste, and abuse provisions has been introduced as a separate bill, the Medicare Fraud and Overpayment Act of 1999. This bill provides for a number of reforms, including:

(1) improvements in the Medicare Secondary Payment provisions,

(2) a reduction in Medicare's reimbursement for the drug EPO used with kidney dialysis so that Medicare is not paying much more than the dialysis centers are buying the drug for;

(3) Medicare payment for pharmaceuticals, biologicals, or parenteral nutrients on the basis of actual acquisition cost rather than the average wholesale price which is often far above the price at which the drug can really be purchased,

(4) setting quality standards for the partial hospitalization mental health benefit, so as to weed out unqualified, abusive providers, and

(5) allowing Medicare to get a volume discount by contracting with Centers of Excellence for high volumes of complex operations at hospitals which have better than average outcomes.

Title V: Tax Credits

Creates a new, federal tax credit equal to 25% of the amount paid by an individual for any of the three new programs described above.

THE FISCAL YEAR 2001 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, my Colleagues, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4461, the fiscal year 2001 Agriculture Appropriations bill. The provisions of this bill reflect the wrong priorities. The measure's total funding is \$524 million less than it was last year. These cuts not only gravely impact the health of our children, but they also harm our environment.

Most importantly, the bill rejects funding for the Food and Drug Administration's tobacco program. Congress must give the FDA the authority to regulate tobacco. I have worked hard to protect our children from the dangers of tobacco, and I cannot support a bill that contains such an ill conceived provision.

In addition, the Agriculture Appropriations bill underfunds a number of important programs for children and families, the environment, and consumers. The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program is cut substantially below the President's request. This essential program saves our most vulnerable children from disease and starvation by providing infants and children with nutritious food to help them thrive during critical years of development. Additionally, funding for state water quality grant programs received less than half of the requested funding level. Another underfunded program is the Food Safety Initiative, which would minimize contamination and ensure consumer food safety.

My Colleagues, it is up to us to make sure that programs that are important to the health and safety of the children and families we represent are safeguarded. The Agriculture Appropriations legislation has its priorities reversed. For that reason, I could not support H.R. 4461, the Fiscal Year 2001 Agriculture Appropriations bill in its current form.

LT. COMMANDER CHARLES A. SCHUE III RETIRES

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to recognize the achievements of a great man, who, through his impressive leadership skills and dedication to both his country and the United States Coast Guard, has forever raised the bar of excellence for those who must follow in his footsteps.

July 21, 2000 marks the retirement of Lieutenant Commander Charles A. Schue, III, United States Coast Guard, as well as the Change of Command at the Coast Guard Loran Support Unit (LSU) in Wildwood, New Jersey. On July 21, 2000, Lieutenant Commander Schue will relinquish command of the unit he has so ably commanded for the last three years. He will then retire after more than 26 years of honorable and meritorious service with the United States Coast Guard.

After attending Coast Guard Boot Camp in Cape May, New Jersey, Lieutenant Commander Schue quickly rose through the enlisted ranks to become a Commissioned Warrant Officer in just 10 years. His tours of duty with the Coast Guard took him across the nation and the world, from Southern New Jersey to Alaska, from Marcus Island, Japan, to Monterey, California, and then, appropriately, back to Southern New Jersey. While serving on Long Range Aids to Navigation (LORAN) transmitter and control stations, Lieutenant Commander Schue helped provide vital radio-navigation services to the United States and Asia.

Despite isolated tours of duty and numerous changes of duty stations, Lieutenant Commander Schue continued his professional growth and easily gained entrance to the Coast Guard Officer Candidate School. Not content to merely assume the trappings of being an officer, Lieutenant Commander Schue continued his professional growth, earning both a Master of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from Naval Postgraduate School and a Master of Science Degree in Engineering Management from Western New England College. Lieutenant Commander Schue's superior engineering and leadership skills were formally recognized when he was named the Coast Guard's Engineer of the Year for 1999.

As Commanding Officer of the LSU, Lieutenant Commander Schue expertly led and motivated a team of office, enlisted, and civilian, and contractor personnel, which consistently produced results of the highest quality, as was highlighted when LSU received the Secretary of Transportation's Team Award for the Loran Consolidated Control System. Setting the standard for responsiveness, and using innovative engineering solutions despite the scarcity of parts and funding, he was instrumental in keeping 1960's and 1970's vintage Loran electronics equipment operational well beyond its planned lifecycle. The LSU's superb support of the \$65.4 M North American Loran-C system resulted in a near 100 percent availability for this safety-of-life navigation system during his tour as the Commanding Officer.

Upon his retirement, his award citation from the Commandant of the Coast Guard noted that "Lieutenant Commander Schue was the driving force behind the Loran Support Unit solidifying its position as the international leader in the Loran-C systems technology" and further stated that "Lieutenant Commander Schue's ability, diligence, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."

I wish to extend my appreciation to Lieutenant Commander Schue for his service to the United States of America and I wish him, his wife Lori and their two children, Ian and Tia a wonderful future.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE GERIATRIC WORKFORCE RELIEF ACT OF 2000

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the complex health problems of aging require spe-

cially-trained physicians in order to adequately care for frail older persons. Geriatrics is the medical specialty that promotes wellness and preventive care; these specialists are first board certified in family practice, internal medicine or psychiatry and then complete additional years of fellowship training in geriatrics. With an emphasis on care management and coordination, geriatricians help patients maintain functional independence, thus improving their overall quality of life. An emphasis on coordination also limits unnecessary and costly hospitalization or institutionalization.

Despite the increasing number of Americans over age 65, there are fewer than 9,000 geriatricians in the United States today. In Texas, there are only about 225 geriatricians—and we are one of the top ten states nationally. Texas has four geriatric training programs; Baylor College of medicine in Houston, the University of Texas at San Antonio, the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (where, I am proud to say, my daughter is a third-year student) and the University of Texas Southwestern.

The Baylor program, in my Congressional District, has been operating for over 15 years. It trains six fellows now and is unable to increase this number because of a Congressionally-mandated Graduate Medical Education (GME) cap. I am told that there are plenty of applicants interested in geriatrics who are being turned away because our Medicare program will not allow them to be funded.

Why is there a cap on the number of new geriatricians? The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 established a hospital-specific cap based upon the number of residents in the hospital in the most recent cost reporting period ending on or before December 31, 1996. Under the cap, the number of residents for direct graduate medical education payment purposes is based upon a three-year rolling average, except for Fiscal Year 1998, when a two-year average was used.

The implementation of this cap has adversely impacted geriatric programs in Houston and elsewhere. As geriatrics is a relatively new specialty, the cap has resulted in either the elimination or reduction of geriatric programs. Because a lower number of geriatric residents existed prior to December 31, 1996, these programs are under-represented in the cap baseline. Thus, new geriatric training programs are severely limited and existing training programs tend not to increase funding, or even decrease funding, for geriatric slots.

There is a well-documented shortage of geriatricians nationwide. Of the approximately 98,000 medical residency and fellowship positions supported by Medicare in 1998, only 324 were in geriatric medicine and geriatric psychiatry.

At the same time, the number of physicians needed to provide medical care for older persons has been estimated to be 2.5 to three times higher in 2030 compared to the mid-1980s, according to the federal Health Resources and Services Administration.

Unfortunately, the pace of training is not meeting this need. The actual number of certified geriatricians has declined, as approximately 50% of those who certified in 1988 did not recertify in 1998. This has occurred just as the baby boomers have started reaching the age of Medicare eligibility.

To correct this problem, I am introducing the Geriatric Workforce Relief Act of 2000 today to

allow an increase in the number of person studying geriatrics at our medical schools. In order to be fiscally responsible, my legislation does not completely lift the cap. Instead, it allows hospitals to increase the cap by 30%. This will allow for a few more students at most programs. My legislation defines approved geriatric residency programs as those approved by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education.

My legislation, which will also be introduced in the Senate today by Senator REID, is modeled upon a similar provisions that was enacted last year for rural hospitals. It is a sensible and reasonable proposal and one that allows us to meet the needs of Medicare patients. I encourage my colleagues to support it.

HONORING ROBERT DOLSEN UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MICHIGAN'S REGION IV AREA AGENCY ON AGING

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Robert Dolsen, upon his retirement after 26 years of dedicated service as the Executive Director of the Region IV Area Agency on Aging. Over the years, Bob has made a tremendous difference in the lives of thousands of elderly and their families in St. Joseph/Benton Harbor and surrounding communities. He has been a great community leader.

Bob established the Region IV Area Agency on Aging in 1974 as a small operation with a staff of four. Today, the Agency operates with a staff of 60 and a budget of over \$10 million. Through the Agency, over 5,000 families are receiving the support services they need to maintain their independence through life's transitions and changes.

Bob has long recognized that one of the greatest challenges facing our community and our nation is the aging of our population and the need for long-term care services. He is providing great leadership on this issue. We are growing old—fast. Today, those 65 and over comprise 12 percent of our population. In just 30 years, those 65 and over will comprise nearly 20 percent of our population. One in five Americans will be a senior citizen. Rising to this challenge, Bob established the first demonstration project for Michigan's home-based long-term care system. It was successful and led to the State's initiation of a Medicaid waiver for home-based services and to the statewide replication of care management through Area Agencies on Aging.

Bob is recognized state-wide and nationally for his knowledge of aging issues, and especially long-term care. He has testified before Congressional committees on 9 different occasions, he is a frequent speaker and trainer at statewide and national conferences, and he was the 1992 recipient of the Harry J. Kelley Award from the Michigan Society of Gerontology for outstanding service in the development of policy and programs for older persons. He is a founding member of the Great Lakes Alliance, an interstate corporation to facilitate cooperation and communication on

age-related issues among six states, and he is a founding member of the Healthy Berrien Coalition, an initiative designed to mobilize key community resources to bring the health status of Berrien County's citizens up to or above national and state standards. Last year, it was my pleasure and honor to co-host a forum on Aging in America with the Coalition. Bob also serves on the Public Policy Committee of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging and was on the Association's Board of Directors for 8 years. He is the past president and a current Board member for the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan. In addition, Bob has served on the Board of the Michigan Society of Gerontology, the State-wide Health Coordinating Council, and the Governor's Long-term Care Task Force.

With all these responsibilities, Bob still finds the time and energy to serve on the United Way Allocation Committee, an advisory group recommending local United Way awards, and to actively participate in and be a benefactor of the St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Rotary Club.

Southwest Michigan is a much better place for all of its citizens, and especially for the elderly, because we have been blessed with Bob Dolsen. He has touched each of our lives in ways large and small, and always with a gentle grace. I know everyone in Southwest Michigan joins me in wishing Bob Dolsen well upon his retirement and in thanking him from our hearts for all he has done and is doing for our community.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FRANK PHILLIP HAWS OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a friend and first-rate doctor, Dr. Frank Haws. As the friends, colleagues and family of Dr. Haws are gathering tonight to honor him, I feel that it is fitting that the United States Congress join them in paying homage to a man who has lent his knowledge, talents and skill to the medical community of North Alabama for over 36 years.

Originally from Washington County, Tennessee and educated at his birth state's institutions of East Tennessee State and the University of Tennessee at Memphis, Dr. Haws began his neurosurgery practice in Huntsville in 1964. He has spent the past 36 years dedicating himself to improving medical care for Huntsville and the surrounding areas. A superior surgeon, Dr. Haws shares his expertise with young doctors teaching at the medical schools of the University of Alabama at Huntsville, the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of Tennessee. He has also channeled his experience and skill into premier academic publications including the Southern Medical Journal.

In 1995, Huntsville Hospital recognized Dr. Haws with the naming of the Neurosurgery Progressive Care Unit in his honor. As both the Chief of Staff and Chief of Surgery at that hospital, he was instrumental in the expansion and improvement of its facilities especially the Neurosurgery Division which he helped create. On active staff at three local hospitals and on consulting staff at eight, Dr. Haws' proven excellence has been very much in demand.

To me, he symbolizes the model doctor: brilliant, talented, caring and dedicated. In addition to his demanding professional life, Dr. Haws has found time to get involved in his community and lends his leadership to the Boys and Girls Club of Huntsville and the Boy's Ranch of Alabama.

As he prepares to leave the North Alabama Neurological, P.A., I sincerely hope he will take the time to enjoy farming and fishing, two of his favorite hobbies. This is a richly deserved rest and I join his wife, Patsy, and his six children in congratulating him on a job well done. I wish him the best in his future years.

Having personally known Dr. Haws for many years, I am thankful for this opportunity to recognize his tremendous medical service and academic accomplishments as well as express my appreciation for his extraordinary contributions to the larger community of North Alabama.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID A YARGER, FORMER CITY ATTORNEY OF VERSAILLES, MISSOURI

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to share a few words with you regarding the career of David A. Yarger, of Versailles, Missouri, who recently retired from his post as City Attorney after serving more than 33 years.

Since December of 1966, Mr. Yarger has provided countless hours of legal guidance to the citizens of Versailles and served diligently as the Prosecuting Attorney for the City of Versailles. In addition to his service as City Attorney, David Yarger has worked to acquire new industries in his community, and he was instrumental in creating the Versailles Park Board. Mr. Yarger has also dedicated his time to the establishment of the Roy E. Otten Memorial Airport and has served as the chairman and secretary of the airport board.

David Yarger is a member and past president of the Versailles Lions Club. He has served on the Morgan County Fair Board and the Fair Cook Shack Committee. As a pilot, Mr. Yarger has frequently made available his time to fly city officials and other residents of the community to destinations throughout Missouri, and he is responsible for the outstanding aerial photographs taken during Versailles' annual and well-attended Old Tyme Apple Festival.

Mr. Speaker, David A. Yarger has established himself as a civic leader in Versailles and Morgan County. His career and dedication to his community show that he is a role model for all Americans. I am certain that the members of this body will join me in congratulating Mr. Yarger for a job well-done.

HOW FORGIVENESS CAN SHAPE OUR FUTURE

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a valued mentor, a key advisor,

and dear friend who recently wrote an article which appeared in the Santa Barbara News-Press, entitled "How Forgiveness Can Shape Our Future."

In addition to being one of Santa Barbara's outstanding public citizens, Mr. Frank K. Kelly has been a journalist, a speech writer for President Truman, Assistant to the Senate Majority Leader, Vice President of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, and Vice President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues and ask them to join me in honoring the career and contributions of Mr. Frank K. Kelly.

HOW FORGIVENESS CAN SHAPE OUR FUTURE

Frank K. Kelly

Human beings have tremendous capacities to be creative and compassionate, cooperative and generous—and shocking abilities to inflict terrible pain upon one another.

Is it possible for us to face the monstrous atrocities in the human record and yet to participate in the process of reconciliation, to accept the awful truth about ourselves and others and still move into the future with strong hope?

In a heart-wrenching report recently published, the man who headed South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission wrestles with these questions and offers us reasons for continuing to believe in the possibilities of spiritual growth for the human family. Archbishop Desmond Tutu regards the transformation of South Africa from a state of oppression to a state of cooperation as an amazing example of human potentiality responding to a surge of God's grace.

In his new book, Tutu says: "South Africans managed an extraordinary, reasonably peaceful transition from the awfulness of oppression to the relative stability of democracy. They confounded everyone by their novel manner of dealing with a horrendous past."

Many people had expected a blood bath involving the deaths of thousands of human beings would occur when Nelson Mandela took office as the first black president of South Africa. But that had not happened.

"There was this remarkable Truth and Reconciliation Commission to which victims expressed their willingness to forgive and perpetrators told their stories of sordid atrocities while also asking for forgiveness from those they had wronged so grievously," Tutu declares. "The world could not quite believe what it was seeing."

Tutu was asked to speak in Ireland in 1998, to explain in a strife-torn country how South Africa had become a peaceful country without bursts of revengeful violence. The South African experience had indicated that "almost no situation could be said to be devoid of hope."

Describing what had happened in his country, Tutu urged the Irish not to become despondent over the obstacles which were preventing the implementation of the agreement reached by the competing factions.

"In South Africa it had often felt as if we were on a roller-coaster ride," Tutu said. "At one moment we would experience the most wonderful joy, euphoria even, at some new and crucial initiative. We would see the promised land of peace and justice around the corner. Then, just when we thought we had entered the last lap, something ghastly would happen—a massacre, a deadlock, brinkmanship of some kind—and we would be scraping the bottom of despair and despondency. I told them this was normal."

In addition to offering encouragement to the peacemakers in Ireland, Tutu has

brought messages of hope to other areas of the world torn by violence. He has reminded people of what has to be done:

"At the end of their conflicts, the warring groups in Northern Ireland, the Balkans, the Middle East, Sri Lanka, Burma, Afghanistan, Angola, the Sudan, the two Congos, and elsewhere are going to have to sit down together to determine just how they will be able to live together amicably, how they might have a shared future devoid of strife, given the bloody past that they have recently lived through."

Based on the experience of South Africa, Tutu is convinced that forgiveness is a key element in creating a lasting peace and releasing the positive energy necessary to build a better future for humanity. He believes that true reconciliation of enemies is impossible without the new perspectives brought about by deep forgiveness.

"Forgiving and being reconciled are not about pretending that things are other than they are," Tutu acknowledges. "True reconciliation exposes the awfulness, the abuse, the pain, the degradation . . . It is a risky undertaking but in the end it is worthwhile, because in the end dealing with the real situation helps to bring real healing."

With the other members of the South African commission, Tutu was frequently astonished at "the extraordinary magnanimity that so many of the victims exhibited." There were some persons who admitted that they could not forgive the hardships inflicted on them, which demonstrated the fact that "forgiveness was neither cheap nor easy."

"In forgiving, people are not being asked to forget," Tutu declares. "On the contrary, it is important to remember, so that we should not let such atrocities happen again. Forgiveness does not mean condoning what has been done . . . It involves trying to understand the perpetrators and so have empathy, to try to stand in their shoes and appreciate the sort of pressures and influences that might have conditioned them."

Tutu points out. "In the act of forgiveness, we are declaring our faith in the future of a relationship and in the capacity of the wrongdoer to make a new beginning on a course that will be different from the one that caused us the wrong . . . It is an act of faith that the wrongdoer can change."

Tutu acknowledges that he and others in the commission were strongly affected by their religious faith. But he expresses the conviction that all human beings will "always need a process of forgiveness and reconciliation to deal with those unfortunate yet all too human breaches in human relationships. They are an inescapable characteristic of the human condition."

Archbishop Tutu sums up his conclusions in the title of his book—"No Future Without Forgiveness." Whether human beings like it or not, we will have to forgive one another in order to survive.

In my own life, I have found it extremely hard to forgive people who have treated me with cruelty or contempt. I have also found it hard to forgive myself for the severity with which I treated my sons when they were children. I convinced myself that I punished them for their own benefit, to make sure they followed the right path, but I later realized I had harmed them by my angry words and outbursts of rage. I had suffered often from the punishing behavior of my own father and it took me years to forgive him. My own sons have forgiven me more readily than I forgave him. The whole process has been painful but cleansing in the end.

When I wrote speeches for Harry Truman in the 1948 presidential campaign I used harsh words to describe the actions taken by the Republican leaders in the Congress. I was not ready to forgive them and I hoped that

my fellow citizens would punish them in the election that year. I was exhilarated when Truman triumphed and the Republicans lost their majority in the Congress. It seemed to me I had taken part in a righteous cause—and I still believe that. Yet the hot words of that campaign produced bitter feelings among the losers and a hostile atmosphere which made it almost impossible for Mr. Truman to get his proposals enacted. He forgave nearly all of the leaders who had attacked him, but some of those leaders would not forgive him for the charges he had made against them.

In all of the election campaigns that have occurred since the United States was founded, injuries have been inflicted—injuries that might have been healed by a better understanding of the power of forgiveness. If we are going to solve the tremendous problems we face now and in the future, we must learn from the South African experience that facing the truth and engaging in continuous efforts for reconciliation are essential for all of us.

It is not easy to uncover the full truth about any situation. In the decades I have lived since I was born in 1914, I have been searching for the truth about many of the events which have affected my life—and I now realize that the process of seeking and discovering what really happened to me and millions of others in those crowded years may go on forever. I now try to base my comprehension on the French saying: "To understand all is to forgive all."

For many years I placed the blame for the two World Wars of the 20th century principally on the Germans—and I could not forgive them for the tremendous devastation I believed they had caused in the world. Under the Kaiser, they had been belligerent and savage; under Hitler, they had tortured and murdered millions of people. Perhaps God could forgive them for what they had done in that century. I couldn't.

Perhaps my enduring rage against the Germans was partly due to the disfiguring wounds that had been inflicted on my father in World War I. He came home from that war with a hole in his neck and a twisted face that frightened me. In my childhood I had to awaken him from nightmares in which he was fighting with Germans who were trying to kill him with trench knives and bayonets. He had engaged in hand-to-hand, face-to-face, combat in the trenches in France—and he never got over it. His screams will echo always in my mind. He had killed enemies with his own bayonet but they were always coming back at him in nights of horror.

While I can never condone the atrocities committed by some Germans under the Kaiser and under Hitler, I have learned enough about the history of Germany and the history of other nations to understand why those atrocities occurred. When I was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard, I heard a former chancellor of the German Democratic Republic, Heinrich Bruning, describe how Count von Papen and other German aristocrats tricked President Paul von Hindenburg into appointing Hitler as chancellor of Germany. Hitler had been defeated by Hindenburg in the German election of 1932, but he was placed in power later by plotters who thought they could control him. The monstrous rise of Nazism was due to the errors of arrogant men. Such errors have been crucial factors in the history of many nations.

My father participated voluntarily in World War I, answering Woodrow Wilson's call to serve in "a war to end a war" and "to make the world safe for democracy." But many of the Germans who fought in that bloody struggle believed that God was on their side and they were justified in what they did. In the light of history, I realized

that many of their men who fought in the trenches suffered from ghastly nightmares similar to those which afflicted my father. War itself was an encompassing evil which brought evil effects to many generations of human beings.

Desmond Tutu's harrowing book, which links truth and reconciliation to the power of forgiveness, offers ways to enable future generations to end the savage cycles of war and revenge. Let us hope that people all over this bleeding world will read it and learn from it. It sheds a great light on what needs to be done.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
PETER J. ROWAN OF THE U.S.
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Lt. Col. Peter J. Rowan. Since July 1998, Lt. Col. Rowan has served as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' District Engineer for the Chicago District. His term in Chicago is nearly at its end, and he is scheduled to leave for his next posting in late July.

Over the course of the last two years, I have had the distinct pleasure of working with him as we partnered up on a number of projects. The Chicago Shoreline, TARP, Stoney Creek, and the Illinois and Michigan Canal. The list goes on and on and on. In every case and in every instance, he has done a wonderful job in working with my staff and me.

Lt. Col. Rowan began his career at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he graduated in 1979. He continued his education and received a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois. He also undertook additional studies in the Engineer Officers Advanced Course and the Command and General Staff College.

He then used his advanced training to further Corps missions across the United States, from Colorado to Nebraska to Kansas and Texas. He also served combat-related assignments in Germany. For the 249th Engineer Battalion in Karlsruhe, he was a platoon leader, company executive officer, and assistant operations officer. He then went on to serve as assistant corps engineer with V Corps, part of the 130th Engineer Brigade in Heidelberg.

His hard work and professional accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. Lt. Col. Rowan is the recipient of a number of awards and decorations for his service, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Parachutist Badge, and the Ranger Tab.

But his most heartwarming accomplishment may very well be that of his family. Lt. Col. Rowan is a devoted husband to his wife and a wonderful father to four children.

I know that I speak for my colleagues from Chicagoland when I say that Lt. Col. Rowan's professionalism, responsiveness, and leadership is an asset to the Corps and our nation. He has done so much for the Chicago District, and I know he will continue to do even more in his career. I salute Lt. Col. Rowan and wish him and his family all the best.

KINDNESS IS CONTAGIOUS IN
CONGRESS**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a successful anti-violence organization in my district. Founded in 1982 in Kansas City, the STOP Violence Coalition's mission is to promote non-violence through education, programming, and collaboration. The program serves 25,000 students, parents, educators, and inmates each year through kindness education, bullying prevention, and inmate rehabilitation. Its founder and one of my constituents, SuEllen Fried, is a well-known leader in the fields of child abuse and peer abuse prevention.

The STOP Violence Coalition has had success with many of its programs. The Reaching Out From Within™ program, directed toward inmate rehabilitation, has a 23% recidivism rate, compared to the national average of approximately 60%. The Coalition has also compiled the 12 Contributing Factors to Violence™, organized the Elder Rights Coalition™, and collaborated with area agencies to address issues related to violence prevention and organization. The Coalition has received the 1999 National American Community Award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

One of the STOP Violence Coalition's most effective programs is the Kindness is Contagious™ program. Last week, at the request of another community leader, who is also of my constituents, Norman Polsky, I distributed Kindness is Contagious . . . Catch it! buttons to each of my colleagues in the House. The purpose of the buttons is to wear the Kindness button until someone is observed behaving kindly toward another, at which time the button is passed on. The recipient is asked to observe others for kind behavior and to pass on the button to someone else who deserves the recognition. Thus it become everyone's responsibility to continue the chain of kindness and giving.

Though the program is school-based, the message is not just for youth. Youth and grown-ups alike need to keep in mind that although we have strong feelings and will disagree about certain things, at the end of the day we should always treat people with the dignity they deserve.

Nearly 300,000 students in 400 Kansas City area schools have participated in Kindness is Contagious™, which promotes the passing of the Kindness button. Since June of this year, over 1,500 inquiries from concerned citizens throughout the country and world have contacted the STOP Violence Coalition to see how they can start the Kindness program in their own communities.

Mr. Speaker, this program is something that has made people around the nation stop and think about their personal behavior and how it affects others, something all of us—within and outside of Congress—should always keep in mind. I would like to thank SuEllen Fried and Norman Polsky for their leadership and vision with these programs and their many efforts throughout our community. I commend them for their tireless service and dedication.

I hope these buttons will change hands many times and encourage caring, consider-

ation, and compassion. I will be wearing this button in an effort to promote kindness. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort and spread this program to their districts.

TRIBUTE TO MS. DEBBIE RUMMEL:
MIDWEST DISTRICT HIGH
SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATOR
OF THE YEAR**HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to take this opportunity to officially recognize an outstanding educator from the 16th district of Illinois for her important contributions to advancing educational excellence in Illinois.

Ms. Debbie Rummel lives in Spring Grove and is a physical education teacher at Antioch Community High School in Antioch, IL. She exemplifies the innovation and encouragement that teachers can bring to education. Ms. Rummel has recently been recognized by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) for her outstanding teaching skills and her ability to influence students to continue to engage in physical activities throughout life.

Beyond receiving NASPE's Midwest District High School Physical Educator of the Year Award, Ms. Rummel has also been inducted into the University of Wisconsin-Platteville's Athletic Hall of Fame, granted a Nutrition Education Teaching Award from Illinois NET, and received a Governor's Award of Excellence in Physical Education and Fitness.

I am honored and pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to the hard work and dedication that characterizes Ms. Rummel's gift of teaching.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber on Monday, July 17 when rollcall votes numbered 401, 402, 403 and 404 were cast. Had I been present in the Chamber at the time these votes were cast, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 401, "yes" on rollcall vote 402, "yes" on rollcall vote 403 and "no" on rollcall vote 404.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, last week I was granted leave of absence for July 19, 2000 and the balance of the week, on account of a death in the family.

Had I been present, I would have voted on the following rolls, as indicated:

No. 412—On Passage of H.R. 1102, the Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act—"Yea"

No. 413—On Agreeing to the Conference Report for the Defense Appropriations Act for FY 2001, H.R. 4576—"Yea"

No. 415—Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 4577, Making Appropriations for Labor, Health and Human Services for Fiscal Year 2001—"Yea"

No. 416—On Passage of H.R. 2634, the Drug Addiction Treatment Act—"Yea".

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4810,
MARRIAGE TAX RELIEF REC-
ONCILIATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, when we considered this bill earlier, I voted for it, although I was very reluctant to do so. But I cannot vote for this conference report.

My support for the bill was reluctant because while I support ending the "marriage penalty," I thought the House bill was not the right way to achieve that goal. In some areas it did too little, and in others it did too much.

It did too little because it did not adjust the Alternative Minimum Tax. That means it would have left many middle-income families unprotected from having most of the promised benefits of the bill taken away. The Democratic substitute would have adjusted the Alternative Minimum Tax, which is one of the reasons I voted for that better bill.

The Republican leadership's bill did too much in another area. Because it was not carefully targeted, it did not just apply to people who pay a penalty because they are married. Instead, a large part of the total benefits under the bill would have gone to married people whose taxes already are lower than they would be if they were single. In other words, a primary result would not be to lessen marriage "penalties" but to increase marriage "bonuses."

And, by going beyond what's needed to end marriage "penalties" the House bill would have gone too far in reducing the surplus funds that will be needed to bolster Social Security and Medicare.

Those were the reasons for my reluctance to vote for this bill. They were strong reasons. In fact, as I said then, if voting for the bill would have meant that it immediately would have become law, I would have voted against it. But, I reluctantly voted for it because at that point the Senate still had a chance to improve it.

I was prepared to give the Republican leadership one last chance to correct the bill's deficiencies rather than simply to insist on sending it to the President for the promised veto. I hope that the Republican leadership would allow the bill to be improved to the point that it would merit becoming law—meaning that it would deserve the President's signature.

Unfortunately, they did not take advantage of that opportunity. Instead, today they are insisting on sending to the President a bill that falls short of being appropriate for signature into law. I cannot support that approach, and I cannot support this conference report.

The conference report is not identical to the House bill, but it is still very poorly targeted.

Half of the tax relief would go to couples who are not affected by any marriage penalty at all—and overall the bill is still fatally flawed. It seems clear that the Republican leadership has decided to insist on trying to force the President to veto this bill, on a timetable based on their national nominating convention.

I greatly regret that the Republican leaders have decided to insist on confrontation with the President instead of seeking a workable compromise that would lead to a bill that the President could sign into law.

The President has said that he will veto this conference report, and I expect that to occur. I hope that after that veto members on both sides of the aisle will work to develop a bill that will appropriately address the real problem of the "marriage penalty" and that can be signed into law this year.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4922, THE TMDL REGULATORY ACCOUNT- ABILITY ACT OF 2000

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 4922, The TMDL Regulatory Accountability Act of 2000.

TMDL stands for "Total Maximum Daily Loads." TMDLs are useful tools provided by the Clean Water Act to bring water bodies into compliance with water quality standards. I support the Clean Water Act's TMDL program. I am pleased that EPA, States, and Congress are finally turning their attention to this program and are providing more resources for States to move ahead and develop and implement TMDLs under existing regulations.

However, like many, I have concerns about EPA's proposed changes to the TMDL program. I have expressed my concerns about these proposed changes, and the process used by EPA to make these changes, at hearings, in letters and phone calls to EPA Administrator Browner and the Director of OMB, Jacob Lew, and in public statements.

I have not been alone in expressing concerns. Many Members of Congress, the National Governor's Association and individual governors, the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators and individual state agencies, EarthJustice Legal Defense Fund, Friends of the Earth, the Conservation Law Foundation, California Association of Sewerage Agencies, the National Federation of Independent Business, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Forest and Paper Association, the American Farm Bureau Federation, PACE International Union, and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America all have expressed serious concerns about EPA's proposals.

I find it significant that the National Governors' Association, the State Water Pollution Control Administrators, EarthJustice Legal Defense Fund, Friends of the Earth, and the Conservation Law Foundation all share the view that EPA's new TMDL regulations will actually hinder progress in improving water quality and will slow down implementation of the TMDL program.

These State organizations and environmental organizations have different reasons for holding this view.

On July 6, 2000, NGA wrote to President Clinton that—

"The TMDL rules have the potential to cause major financial burdens on our state environmental agencies and severe economic impacts on our states."

"The restrictive language of the regulation will virtually eliminate the flexibility of states to offer opportunities to reduce overall pollution between waterbodies."

"The 'one-size-fits-all' approach proposed by the regulations will inevitably fail, resulting in mountains of paperwork and no appreciable improvement in water quality."

The Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators wrote to Administrator Browner that—

"It is the view of the majority of the state water quality program managers responsible for the day to day implementation of the clean water programs, that this set of rules is technically, scientifically and fiscally unworkable."

On May 19, 2000, six environmental organizations wrote to Administrator Browner that—

"Due to the problems we outline below, we are asking you to withdraw the current version of the proposed rule, which is so fundamentally flawed that it would weaken the existing TMDL program. In addition, we are concerned that if the Administration attempts to finalize this rule, the overwhelming opposition it faces in Congress could result in a weakening of the Clean Water Act itself."

"Our organizations have many objections to the August 23 proposal, the most serious of which include the unjustifiably long timeline of up to 15 years to states to prepare TMDLs, the lack of requirements for EPA to step in and do the job if states fail to submit TMDLs or miss other regulatory deadlines, the omission of deadlines for meeting water quality standards, and the overall unenforceability of the new program."

Of the six groups that signed the May 19 letter, three (Friends of the Earth, EarthJustice Legal Defense Fund, and the Conservation Law Foundation) continue to oppose the TMDL rule.

The state organizations and environmental organizations I quoted from have very different views on how to improve the TMDL program. However, they all share the goal of improving the TMDL program so that it is a more effective tool for improving water quality. Given this shared goal, I believe that we should be able to develop program improvements that can be embraced by both the National Governors' Association and environmental groups. And, given the difficulties in addressing nonpoint source pollution, it is critical to have the support and cooperation of the nonpoint source community. Rushing a regulation through that threatens lawsuits and withholding funds to achieve compliance will not result in improved water quality. It will only undermine public support for Clean Water Act programs.

EPA has failed to demonstrate leadership on this issue. As a result, EPA's new TMDL regulations, signed by Administrator Browner on July 11, do not have public support. In fact, aside from some in the environmental community, EPA can point to only two or three states and one organization representing the regulated community—the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies—that support the final rule. And even with in AMSA there is not agreement. The California Association of Sewerage Agencies, representing 95 California

municipal sewerage agencies, shares the view held by most organizations representing point sources—that "the administration's apparent decision to rush to publication of an important rule will only promote litigation and years of delays in responding to actual threats to our nation's lakes, rivers and coastal waters."

I am not suggesting that all persons must agree with regulations, but EPA has made no attempt to engage in the public discourse that must take place to unite stakeholders behind the common goal of improving water quality, despite numerous requests from stakeholders asking EPA to allow additional public comment and seeking additional information from EPA on the impacts of the new TMDL regulations.

Fortunately, EPA's new TMDL regulations will not become effective until fiscal year 2002 and we have the opportunity for additional comment and analysis that many stakeholders and many members of Congress had asked EPA to undertake before finalizing its new TMDL rule.

First, we need to engage the public on this issue. EPA dismissed the criticism of its new TMDL rule as "misunderstanding" of EPA's intent. The final rule and EPA's preamble explaining intent were published in the Federal Register on July 13, 2000.

H.R. 4922 requires EPA to solicit and respond to public comment on EPA's changes to the TMDL program.

Second, we need to understand the scope of the problem. In her July 11, 2000 press release announcing the signing of the new TMDL regulations, Administrator Browner states that "40 percent of America's waters are still too polluted." However, EPA's estimate of the costs of developing and implementing TMDLs is based on 20,000 impaired waterbodies—representing only 10 percent of the Nation's waters. What is the scope of the problem? 40 percent impairment or 10 percent? The General Accounting Office pointed out in a recent report that only 6 states have sufficient data to identify the scope of water quality impairments in the State. As a result, neither EPA nor the public knows the actual scope of the water quality problem.

H.R. 4922 requires EPA to come up with a plan to fill these data gaps, and create a budget for implementing that plan.

Third, we need an understanding of what methods should be used to address these matters. Too often, EPA's new TMDL regulations simply assume away difficult water quality problems. For example, the new regulations consider the sun a source of pollution—heat—but do not explain how to go about regulating the sun, stating that: "What needs to be done to mitigate heat load from solar input will be addressed by a State, Territory, or authorized Tribe when it establishes the TMDL." The final rule similarly has no answers for how to address pollution from atmospheric deposition, or legacy pollution.

H.R. 4922 includes a study by the National Academy of Sciences to improve our ability to identify sources of pollution and allocate loadings among them.

Fourth, we need an understanding of what kind of sacrifices the public must make to solve our remaining water quality problems, and the benefits that will be achieved if we dedicate resources to this effort. Again, EPA has failed to provide this information. EPA estimates that the total cost of the TMDL rule will be less than \$23 million a year. EPA did not

provide any estimate of the benefits of the rule. However, as the General Accounting Office pointed out in another recent report, EPA's cost estimate assumes that States already have all the data they need to develop TMDLs, an assumption that has no basis in reality. In addition, EPA fails to inform the public of the costs to the regulated community from implementation of the rule, including costs to small businesses and small farming or forestry operations. Instead, EPA would have the public believe that improving water quality is all gain and no pain. I am very concerned about a backlash against Clean Water Act programs when EPA tries to implement the new regulation and the cost is more than the public is prepared to pay.

H.R. 4922 requires EPA to conduct a complete analysis of the costs and benefits of its TMDL rule in a manner that addresses the Comptroller General's criticisms of the EPA's earlier cost estimate. In addition, H.R. 4922 requires EPA to quantify the effects of the rules on small entities, including small businesses, small organizations, and small governmental organizations.

H.R. 4922 does not affect EPA's existing TMDL program. I strongly encourage States to proceed with TMDL development and implementation under existing regulations as expeditiously as possible. Fortunately, the House-passed VAHUD appropriations bill provides significant new resources for States to do so.

H.R. 4922 also does not affect EPA's new TMDL regulations. However, after considering the additional public input and additional information developed under this legislation, I hope that EPA will conclude that its new TMDL regulations should be changed before they become effective in fiscal year 2002.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE ULSTER UNITED TRAVEL SOCCER CLUB

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exciting event between the Ulster County, New York United Travel Soccer Club and the Shrewsbury House Soccer Club of England.

On August 30th and 31st, the two Soccer Clubs will compete against each other in the Cantine Field Sports Complex in my hometown of Saugerties, New York. The matches will promote a greater understanding between the players and continue the great tradition of cooperation between the United States and England.

The players from England will be staying with families in Saugerties, which will serve as an educational experience for the players and citizens of Saugerties. Indeed, as our world becomes increasingly connected, it is critically important that we provide opportunities for our

children to interact with different cultures. The athletic contests will help facilitate an exchange of ideas and I am pleased to welcome the Shrewsbury House Soccer Club to Ulster County.

The Ulster United Travel Soccer Club is an important resource for the young people of my district. Indeed, the club promotes teamwork, sportsmanship, positive thinking and physical fitness. In addition, the Club is a member of the Northern Catskill Youth Association (NCYA) and participates in tournaments throughout the Northeast. I applaud the Ulster United Travel Soccer Club for its steadfast commitment to our young people.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to salute the Ulster United Travel Soccer Club and the Shrewsbury House Soccer Club for arranging this unique international competition.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY RENEWAL AND NEW MARKETS ACT

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, across America, the signs of prosperity are brightly lit. The economic boom that is the hallmark of the '90's can be seen in towering construction cranes, packed shopping malls, and flourishing businesses in every region of the nation. As the 21st Century opens, America's free market principles are triumphant, and the world is captivated by the American economic success story.

Given this bountiful setting, it is valid to ask why JIM TALENT, DANNY DAVIS and I joined together last year to re-introduce something called "The American Community Renewal Act." In view of our booming national prosperity, the need for economic renewal may seem to many to be irrelevant at best, or needless at worst.

To answer that question, we might first look back to a dramatic moment from an earlier period of prolonged American prosperity.

The year was 1968 and, like today, Americans were building new homes, buying new products, creating new businesses, and generally enjoying an unprecedented prosperity. The national economic atmosphere was heady and exuberant.

But on May 21st of that year, millions of Americans sat before their television sets and were shocked by a report from the respected newsman Charles Kuralt entitled "Hunger in America." That program exposed an unseen hunger and malnutrition that marked the lives of millions of Americans. The nation was shocked into action, and ending hunger in America became a critical national goal.

One editorial writer at that time, commenting on the documentary, noted: "The contrast of a rich country harboring pockets of the most

primitive want was its own editorial on the social contradiction of an affluent nation."

Now it is over thirty years later, and there is a new social contradiction—a new unseen hunger in the midst of a prosperous America. It is a hunger for opportunity and it comes from America's poorest communities. It comes from the aging, struggling communities which most Americans have never seen—neighborhoods that have been bypassed by the national economic success story.

These are the communities that cannot attract the businesses and industry which bring the jobs which bring the opportunities that lead to the American dream.

These are the neighborhoods where vacant properties become home to crack users who destroy the sense of safety and security that a community needs to grow and prosper.

These are the neighborhoods where a long and expensive public transit ride is the only way to get to the new jobs in prosperous suburbs.

These are the neighborhoods where venture capital just doesn't venture.

Despite the strongest economic growth in this nation's history, too many people living in America's poorest neighborhoods are still being left behind.

Today you can do something about that.

The Community Renewal and New Markets Act that we are introducing today is the product of five years of hard work and extensive travel to find out what works from the people on the ground who are working every day to revive these neighborhoods.

This legislation establishes a new model that merges new ideas about venture capital, regulatory reform, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, housing and homeownership, commercial revitalization and tax incentives.

Hopefully, our efforts will bring America's attention into the most forgotten corners of America. I am hopeful we can give these troubled communities the tools they need to recover and to prosper.

Though we cannot promise success to every man, woman and child in America, we should be able to promise each of them the opportunity for success. This country is too great and too wealthy to allow even one of our children to grow up without that opportunity.

This is the essence of the social contract that we, as Americans, hold with one another. We are working to achieve this goal—to make good on this social contract—through passage of this important legislation.

In 1968 America's "social contradiction" was an unseen hunger for food in a nation that feeds the world. In the year 2000 that "social contradiction" is an unseen hunger for opportunity in a nation that represents unbridled opportunity to the rest of the world.

It is time to end that contradiction and bring the nurturing promise of opportunity home to all Americans. The Community Renewal and New Markets Act is an important step in that direction.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the *Extensions of Remarks* section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 25, 2000 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 26

8:30 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to review the federal sugar program.
SH-216

9 a.m.
Small Business
Business meeting to markup S. 1594, to amend the Small Business Act and Small Business Investment Act of 1958.
SR-428A

Environment and Public Works
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD-406

9:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings on broadband internet regulatory relief.
SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold oversight hearings on Natural Gas Supply.
SD-366

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Public Health Subcommittee
To hold hearings on bridging the gap between health disparities.
SD-430

Armed Services
To hold hearings on the nomination of Donald Mancuso, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Defense; Roger W. Kallock, of Ohio, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Material Readiness; and James Edgar Baker, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.
SR-222

10 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings on S. 1801, to provide for the identification, collection, and review for declassification of records and materials that are of extraordinary public interest to the people of the United States.
SD-342

Finance
To hold hearings on the nomination of Robert S. LaRussa, of Maryland, to be

Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade; the nomination of Ruth Martha Thomas, of the District of Columbia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury; the nomination of Lisa Gayle Ross, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; and the nomination of Lisa Gayle Ross, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury.
SD-215

11 a.m.
Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD-419

2 p.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the Americans with Disabilities Act.
SH-216

2:30 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold hearings on S. 2526, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend such Act.
SR-485

Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement implementing the October 1999 announcement by the President to review approximately 40 million acres of national forest for increased protection.
SD-366

JULY 27

9 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to review proposals to establish an international school lunch program.
SH-216

9:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine antitrust issues in the airline industry, focusing on trends in the industry, the impact that a reduction of competitors might have on competition and concentration levels at hubs.
SR-253

Environment and Public Works
To hold oversight hearings on the use of comparative risk assessment in setting priorities and on the Science Advisory Board's Residual Risk Report.
SD-406

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's recent efforts to perpetuate his power by forcing through changes to the Yugoslav constitution and cracking down on opposition and independent forces in Serbia.
2255 Rayburn Building

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold oversight hearings on the United States General Accounting Office's investigation of the Cerro Grande Fire in the State of New Mexico, and from Federal agencies on the Cerro Grande Fire and their fire policies in general.
SD-366

Judiciary
Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition Subcommittee
Business meeting to markup S. 2778, to amend the Sherman Act to make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal.
SD-226

10 a.m.

Judiciary

Business meeting to markup S. 1898, to provide protection against the risks to the public that are inherent in the interstate transportation of violent prisoners; S. 113, to increase the criminal penalties for assaulting or threatening Federal judges, their family members, and other public servants; S. 783, to limit access to body armor by violent felons and to facilitate the donation of Federal surplus body armor to State and local law enforcement agencies; and S. 2448, to enhance the protections of the Internet and the critical infrastructure of the United States.
SD-226

2 p.m.

Judiciary

Criminal Justice Oversight Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine security for executive branch officials.
SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 1734, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to contribute funds for the establishment of an interpretative center on the life and contributions of President Abraham Lincoln; H.R. 3084, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to contribute funds for the establishment of an interpretative center on the life and contributions of President Abraham Lincoln; S. 2345, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study concerning the preservation and public use of sites associated with Harriet Tubman located in Auburn, New York; S. 2638, to adjust the boundaries of the Gulf Islands National Seashore to include Cat Island, Mississippi; H.R. 2541, to adjust the boundaries of the Gulf Islands National Seashore to include Cat Island, Mississippi; and S. 2848, to provide for a land exchange to benefit the Pecos National Historical Park in New Mexico.
SD-366

3:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings on the nomination of John E. McLaughlin, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Director of Central Intelligence.
SH-219

SEPTEMBER 26

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the Legislative recommendation of the American Legion.
345 Cannon Building

CANCELLATIONS

JULY 26

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on potential timber sale contract liability incurred by the government as a result of timber sale contract cancellations.
SD-366